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7306 Georgia Avenue, N.W.  
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(202) 882-5770  
(202) 722-0040 Fax

Date April 7, 2006 Page 1 of 12

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SUBJECT: \_\_\_\_\_

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NIGEL L. SCOTT (D.C. & MD)  
WINSTON J. YALLERY-ARTHUR  
MARSHA EPPS EDWARDS

TELEPHONE (202) 882-5770  
FAX: (202) 722-0040

April 7, 2006

In re: Patent Application of Edward T. Buford, III

Serial No: 09/912,692

Group Art Unit: 3747

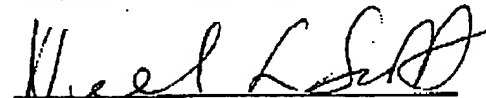
Filed: 7/26/2001

Examiner: R. Chin

Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20321

Please accept the Applicant's Response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment in  
the above action dated March 8, 2006.

Respectfully Submitted,



NIGEL/L. SCOTT, Esquire  
Pat. Bar # 27,385  
Attorney for Applicant  
7306 Georgia Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20012-1617  
(202) 882-5770  
(202) 722-0040 Fax

H:\NIGEL\Intellectual property\BUFORD\4-7-06 letter to Office re Amendment\wpd

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Commissioner of Patent and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20321

Sir:

AMENDMENT

This is in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed March 8, 2006 in respect of the above-identified patent application. In keeping with the Examiner's instructions only the claims to be examined are being filed. Further, Applicant believes that the eight claims listed below are the identical claims that the Examiner referred to in the Office Action dated September 30, 2003. Applicant apologizes for any confusion relating to his attempts to clarify the connection between the referenced Office Action and the rejection by the LIE on the grounds that Applicant had not filed "all of the claims."

In this regard, the basis for the LIE's rejection of the January 23, 2004 amendment on the grounds of non-compliance because the subject amendment did not include "all of the claims" is unclear. Specifically, in the Office Action mailed on September 30, 2003, the record shows that Examiner examined a total of eight (8) claims; of the claims examined, claims 1-5 and 8 were rejected and claims 6 and 7 allowed. Applicant's First Amendment